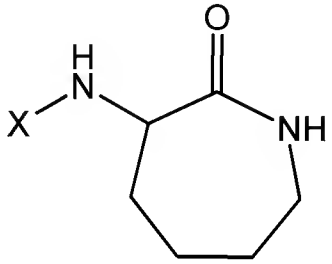
LISTING OF THE CLAIMS

1. (Cancelled)

2. (Cancelled)

3. (Currently Amended) A pharmaceutical composition comprising, as active ingredient, a compound of formula **(I)** or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof, and at least one pharmaceutically acceptable excipient and/or carrier:



(I)

wherein

X is -CO-R^1 or -SO_2-R^2,

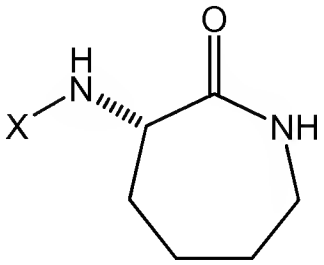
R^1 is an alkyl, haloalkyl, alkoxy, haloalkoxy, alkenyl, alkynyl or alkylamino radical of 4 to 20 carbon atoms (for example of 5 to 20 carbon atoms, of 8 to 20 carbon atoms, of 9 to 20 carbon atoms, of 10 to 18 carbon atoms, of 12 to 18 carbon atoms, of 13 to 18 carbon atoms, of 14 to 18 carbon atoms, of 13 to 17 carbon atoms [[.]]), with the proviso that R^1 is not 5-methylheptanyl or 6-methylheptanyl where the R^1 radical is linked to the carbonyl at its 1-position; and

R^2 is an alkyl radical of 4 to 20 carbon atoms (for example of 5 to 20 carbon atoms, of 8 to 20 carbon atoms, of 9 to 20 carbon atoms, of 10 to 18 carbon atoms, of 12 to 18 carbon atoms, of 13 to 18 carbon atoms, of 14 to 18 carbon atoms, and of 13 to 17 carbon atoms);

or

alternatively R^1 and R^2 may be selected independently from a peptido radical having from 1 to 4 peptidic moieties linked together by peptide bonds (for example a peptido radical of 1 to 4 amino acid residues).

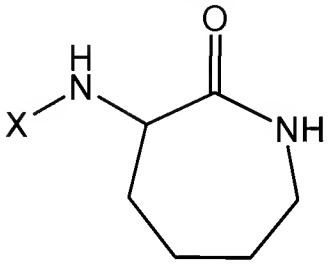
4. (Currently Amended) A pharmaceutically acceptable composition comprising as active ingredient, a compound of formula (I') or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof, and at least one pharmaceutically acceptable excipient and/or carrier:



(I')

wherein X has the same meaning as in claim 3.

5. (Previously presented) A compound of general formula **(I)**:



(I)

wherein

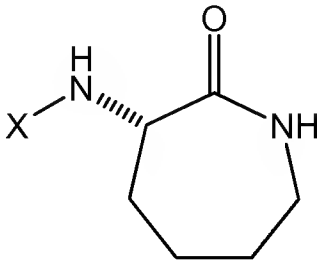
X is $-CO-R^1$ or $-SO_2-R^2$,

R^1 is an ~~alkyl,~~ haloalkyl, alkoxy other than *tert*-butyloxy, haloalkoxy, alkenyl, alkynyl or alkylamino radical of 4 to 20 carbon atoms (for example of 5 to 20 carbon atoms, of 8 to 20 carbon atoms, of 9 to 20 carbon atoms, of 10 to 18 carbon atoms, of 12 to 18 carbon atoms, of 13 to 18 carbon atoms, of 14 to 18 carbon atoms, of 13 to 17 carbon atoms[[.]]); and

R^2 is an alkyl radical of 4 to 20 carbon atoms (for example of 5 to 20 carbon atoms, of 8 to 20 carbon atoms, of 9 to 20 carbon atoms, of 10 to 18 carbon atoms, of 12 to 18 carbon atoms, of 13 to 18 carbon atoms, of 14 to 18 carbon atoms, and of 13 to 17 carbon atoms); or

alternatively R^1 and R^2 are selected independently from a peptido radical having from 1 to 4 peptidic moieties linked together by peptide bonds.

6. (Currently Amended) [[The]] A compound of general formula **(I')**:



(I')

wherein X has the same meaning as in Claim 5.

7. (Currently Amended) The ~~compounds, compositions and uses of the compounds of general formula (I) or (I'), or their pharmaceutically acceptable salts,~~ pharmaceutical composition according to claim [[1]] 3, wherein the alkyl, haloalkyl, alkoxy, haloalkoxy, alkenyl, alkynyl or alkylamino part of the R^1 radical is linear.

8. (Currently Amended) The ~~compounds, compositions and uses of the compounds of general formula (I) or (I'), or their pharmaceutically acceptable salts,~~ pharmaceutical composition according to claim [[1]] 3, wherein the alkyl, haloalkyl, alkoxy, haloalkoxy, alkenyl, alkynyl or alkylamino part of the R^1 radical is branched.

9. (Currently Amended) The ~~compounds, compositions and uses of the compounds of general formula (I) or (I'), or their pharmaceutically acceptable salts,~~ pharmaceutical composition according to claim [[1]] 3, wherein the alkyl, haloalkyl, alkoxy, haloalkoxy, alkenyl, alkynyl or alkylamino part of the R^1 radical is either linear or is branched but contains a linear chain of at least 8 or at least 10 carbon atoms.

10. (Currently Amended) The ~~compounds, compositions and uses~~ pharmaceutical composition according to claim 8 wherein the R^1 radical has an alpha-carbon (2-position in X) which is substituted with one or two of the same or different groups selected from: alkyl, haloalkyl, alkoxy, haloalkoxy, alkenyl, alkynyl and alkylamino radicals.

11. (Currently Amended) The ~~compounds, compositions and uses~~ pharmaceutical composition according to claim 8 wherein the R^1 radical has an alpha-carbon (2-position in X)

which is di-substituted with the same or different groups selected from: alkyl, haloalkyl, alkoxy, haloalkoxy, alkenyl, alkynyl and alkylamino radicals.

12. (Currently Amended) The ~~compounds, compositions and uses~~ pharmaceutical composition according to claim 10 wherein the alpha-carbon is chiral.

13. (Currently Amended) The ~~compounds, compositions and uses~~ pharmaceutical composition according to claim 10 wherein the alpha-carbon has sp3 hybridised bonds.

14. (Currently Amended) The ~~compounds, compositions and uses~~ pharmaceutical composition according to claim 10 wherein the alpha-carbon has essentially tetrahedral bond angles.

15. (Currently Amended) The pharmaceutical composition according to claim 3, wherein the compound is selected from the group consisting of:

– (*S*)-3-hexadecanoylamino-caprolactam;
– (*S*)-3-undecanoylamino-caprolactam;
– (S)-3-(undec-10-enoyl)amino-caprolactam;
– (*S*)-3-(undec-10-ynoyl)amino-caprolactam;
– (*S*)-3-dodecanoylamino-caprolactam;
– (*S*)-3-tetradecanoylamino-caprolactam;
– (*R*)-3-hexadecanoylamino-caprolactam;
– (*S*)-3-octadecanoylamino-caprolactam;
– (*S*)-(*Z*)-3-(hexadec-9-enoyl)amino-caprolactam;
– (*S*)-(*Z*)-3-(octadec-9-enoyl)amino-caprolactam;
– (*R*)-(*Z*)-3-(octadec-9-enoyl)amino-caprolactam;
– (*S*)-3-(2',2'-dimethyl-dodecanoyl)amino-caprolactam;
– (*S*)-3-(decyloxycarbonyl)amino-caprolactam;
– (*S*)-(*E*)-3-(dodec-2-enoyl)amino-caprolactam;
– (*S*)-3-(dec-9-enylaminocarbonyl)amino-caprolactam; and
– (*S*)-3-(decylaminocarbonyl)amino-caprolactam;

and pharmaceutically acceptable salts thereof.

16. (Currently Amended) The pharmaceutical composition according to claim 3, wherein the compound is selected from the group consisting of:

– (*R*)-3-(2',2'-Dimethyl-dodecanoyl)amino-caprolactam;

– (*S*)-3-(2',2'-Dimethyl-pentanoyl)amino-caprolactam;

– (*S*)-3-(2',2'-Dimethyl-pent-4-enoyl)amino-caprolactam;

– (*S*)-3-(2',2'-Dimethyl-propionyl)amino-caprolactam;

– (*S*)-3-(2',2'-Dimethyl-butyryl)amino-caprolactam;

– (*S,E*)-3-(2',2'-Dimethyl-dodec-4'-enoyl)amino-caprolactam;

– (*S*)-3-(2',2',5'-Trimethyl-hex-4'-enoyl)amino-caprolactam;

– (*S*)-3-(2',2',5'-Trimethyl-hexanoyl)amino-caprolactam;

– (*S*)-3-(11'-bromo-undecanoyl)amino-caprolactam;

~~– (*S*)-3-(11'-azido-undecanoyl)amino-caprolactam;~~

– (*S*) Sodium 3-(undecanoyl)amino-caprolactam 11'-sulfonate tetrahydrate;

– (*S*)-3-(Decanesulfonyl)amino-caprolactam;

– (*S*)-3-(Dodecanesulfonyl)amino-caprolactam;

– (*S*)-3-(Tetradecanesulfonyl)amino-caprolactam;

– (*S*)-3-(Hexadecanesulfonyl)amino-caprolactam; and

– (*S*)-3-(Octadecanesulfonyl)amino-caprolactam;

and pharmaceutically acceptable salts thereof.

17. (Previously presented) The pharmaceutical composition according to claim 3, wherein the compound is selected from the group consisting of: (S)-3-hexadecanoylamino-caprolactam, (*S*)-3-(2',2'-dimethyl-dodecanoyl)amino-caprolactam, (*S*)-3-(2',2'-dimethyl-propionyl)amino-caprolactam and pharmaceutically acceptable salts thereof.

18. (Currently Amended) The pharmaceutical composition according to claim 3, wherein the compound is selected from the group consisting of:

- (*S*)-3-(2'-Propylpentanoyl)amino-caprolactam;

- (3*S*,2'*R*) and (3*S*,2'*S*)-3-(2'-Ethylhexanoyl)amino-caprolactam;

- (*S*)-3-(3',3'-Dimethyldodecanoyl)amino-caprolactam;

- (*S*)-(*E*)-3-(2'-Methyldodec-2'-enoyl)amino-caprolactam;

- (3*S*,2'*R*) and (3*S*,2'*S*)-3-(2'-Methyldodecanoyl)amino-caprolactam; and

~~- (3*S*,2'*S*,3'*R*) 3-(3'-Hydroxy-2'-methyldecanoyl)amino-caprolactam;~~

~~- (3*S*,2'*R*,3'*S*)-3-(3'-Hydroxy-2'-methyldecanoyl)amino-caprolactam;~~

~~- (3*S*,3'*R*) and (3*S*,3'*S*)-3-(3'-Hydroxy-2',2'-dimethyldecanoyl)amino-caprolactam;~~

~~- (*S*)-(2',2'-Dimethyl-3'-hydroxy-propionyl)amino-caprolactam;~~

- (*S*)-(3'-Chloro-2'-(chloromethyl)-2'-methylpropionyl)amino-caprolactam;

and pharmaceutically acceptable salts thereof.

19. (Currently Amended) The ~~use of a compound of formula (I) or (I')~~ method according to claim [[1]] 20 wherein the inflammatory ~~disorder~~ disease is selected from the group consisting of autoimmune diseases, vascular disorders, viral infection or replication, asthma, osteoporosis (low bone mineral density), tumor growth, rheumatoid arthritis, organ transplant rejection and/or delayed graft or organ function, a disorder characterised by an elevated TNF-α level, psoriasis, skin wounds, disorders caused by intracellular parasites, allergies, Alzheimer's disease, antigen induced recall response, immune response suppression, multiple sclerosis, ALS, fibrosis, and formation of adhesions.

20. (Currently Amended) **[[**The**]]** A method of treatment[[,]] or amelioration ~~or prophylaxis~~ of the symptoms of an inflammatory disease (including an adverse inflammatory reaction to any agent) by the administration to a patient of an anti-inflammatory amount of a pharmaceutical composition ~~or medicament~~ as claimed in claim **[[**1**]]** 3.

21. (Currently Amended) The ~~compounds, compositions and uses of the compounds of general formula (I) or (I'), or their pharmaceutically acceptable salts, or a method of treatment~~ pharmaceutical composition according to claim **[[**1**]]** 3, wherein the substituent R^1 is not a straight chain alkyl group.

22. (Currently Amended) The ~~compounds, compositions and uses of the compounds of general formula (I) or (I'), or their pharmaceutically acceptable salts, or a method of treatment~~ pharmaceutical composition according to claim **[[**1**]]** 3, wherein the substituent R^1 is a branched chain alkyl group.

23. (Currently Amended) The ~~compounds, compositions and uses of the compounds of general formula (I) or (I'), or their pharmaceutically acceptable salts, or a method of treatment~~

pharmaceutical composition according to claim [[1]] 3, wherein the substituent R^1 is not an alkyl group.

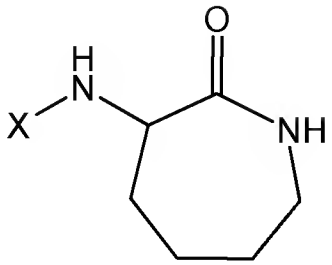
24. (Original) A pharmaceutical composition for treatment of an inflammatory disorder comprising, as active ingredient, (*S*,*S*) *N*,*N*'-bis-(2'-oxo-azepan-3'-yl) 2,2,6,6-tetramethylheptadiamide or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof, and at least one pharmaceutically acceptable excipient and/or carrier.

25. (Currently Amended) A synthetic intermediate, useful in the synthesis of compounds of general formula **(I)** or **(I')**, selected from the group consisting of:

– (*E*)-Methyl 2,2-dimethyl-dodec-4-enoate;
– (*E*)-2,2-Dimethyl-dodec-4-enoyl chloride;
– Methyl 2,2,5-trimethyl-hex-4-enoate;
– 2,2,5-Trimethyl-hex-4-enoyl chloride;
– 3,3-Dimethyldodecanoic acid;
– 3,3-Dimethyldodecanoyl chloride;
– (*E*)-Ethyl 2-methyldodec-2-enoate;
– (*E*)-2-Methyldodec-2-enoic acid;
– (*E*)-2-Methyldodec-2-enoyl chloride;
– (4*S*,2'*S*,3'*R*)-4-Benzyl-3-(3'-hydroxy-2'-methyldecanoyl)-oxazolidin-2-one;
– (4*R*,2'*R*,3'*S*)-4-Benzyl-3-(3'-hydroxy-2'-methyldecanoyl)-oxazolidin-2-one;
– (2*S*,3*R*)-3-Hydroxy-2-methyldecanoic acid;
– (2*R*,3*S*)-3-Hydroxy-2-methyldecanoic acid;
– Methyl 2,2-dimethyl-3-hydroxy decanoate;
– 2,2-Dimethyl-3-hydroxy decanoic acid; and
– 2,2-Dimethyl-3-(tetrahydropyran-2-yloxy)-propionic acid;
and pharmaceutically acceptable salts thereof.

26. (Previously Presented) The pharmaceutical composition according to claim 3, wherein the compound is (S)-3-(1',1'-dimethylundecanesulfonyl)amino-caprolactam or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof.

27. (New) A compound of general formula **(I)**:



(I)

wherein

X is -CO-R^1 or -SO_2-R^2,

R^1 is an alkyl, haloalkyl, alkoxy, haloalkoxy, alkenyl, alkynyl or alkylamino radical of 4 to 20 carbon atoms (for example of 5 to 20 carbon atoms, of 8 to 20 carbon atoms, of 9 to 20 carbon atoms, of 10 to 18 carbon atoms, of 12 to 18 carbon atoms, of 13 to 18 carbon atoms, of 14 to 18 carbon atoms, of 13 to 17 carbon atoms);

the alkyl, haloalkyl, alkoxy, haloalkoxy, alkenyl, alkynyl or alkylamino part of the R^1 radical is branched;

the R^1 radical has an alpha-carbon (2-position in X) which is substituted with one or two of the same or different groups selected from: alkyl, haloalkyl, alkoxy, haloalkoxy, alkenyl, alkynyl and alkylamino radicals;

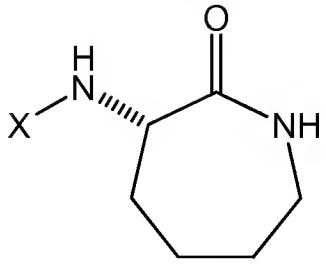
and

R^2 is an alkyl radical of 4 to 20 carbon atoms (for example of 5 to 20 carbon atoms, of 8 to 20 carbon atoms, of 9 to 20 carbon atoms, of 10 to 18 carbon atoms, of 12 to 18 carbon atoms, of 13 to 18 carbon atoms, of 14 to 18 carbon atoms, and of 13 to 17 carbon atoms);

or

alternatively R^1 and R^2 are selected independently from a peptido radical having from 1 to 4 peptidic moieties linked together by peptide bonds.

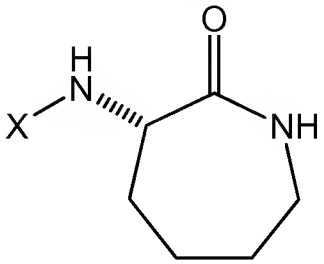
28. (New) A compound of general formula **(I')**:



(I')

wherein X has the same meaning as in claim 27.

29. (New) A compound of general formula **(I')**:



(I')

wherein

X is -CO-R^1 or -SO_2-R^2,

R^1 is an alkyl, haloalkyl, alkoxy, haloalkoxy, alkenyl, alkynyl or alkylamino radical of 4 to 20 carbon atoms (for example of 5 to 20 carbon atoms, of 8 to 20 carbon atoms, of 9 to 20 carbon atoms, of 10 to 18 carbon atoms, of 12 to 18 carbon atoms, of 13 to 18 carbon atoms, of 14 to 18 carbon atoms, of 13 to 17 carbon atoms); and

R^2 is an alkyl radical of 4 to 20 carbon atoms (for example of 5 to 20 carbon atoms, of 8 to 20 carbon atoms, of 9 to 20 carbon atoms, of 10 to 18 carbon atoms, of 12 to 18 carbon atoms, of 13 to 18 carbon atoms, of 14 to 18 carbon atoms, and of 13 to 17 carbon atoms);

or

alternatively R^1 and R^2 may be selected independently from a peptido radical having from 1 to 4 peptidic moieties linked together by peptide bonds (for example a peptido radical of 1 to 4 amino acid residues);

with the proviso that the compound is none of the group consisting of N-[(3S)-hexahydro-2-oxo-1H-azepin-3-yl]-dodecanamide, N-[(3S)-hexahydro-2-oxo-1H-azepin-3-yl]-octanamide, N-[(3S)-hexahydro-2-oxo-1H-azepin-3-yl]-urea, and N-hexadecyl-N'-[(3S)-hexahydro-2-oxo-1H-azepin-3-yl]-urea.